

# ÄKAU

## Kaupapa Matua

## Design Activity

# Rākau Making Activity

Nau mai ki te rēhia! Come and join the fun! We're inviting you to help us create a magical play-space filled with taonga taakaro at Waitangi in 2026! We celebrate Hine-te-rēhia and many other amazing Atua Māori who love to play, in a Māori play-space made for mokopuna of all ages! Tomo mai - come on in and let's play together!

Create their own rākau to participate in the biggest game of Mauī/Matau and other kemu. Students are to design and make their own individual rākau by sanding and applying Tohu/symbol inspired by Māori patterns onto their rākau.



### Task 01: Making the Awe (Feather – Leaf adornment)

- Using the feather or leaf stencil provided tamariki are to choose their preferred stencil and place on your own card material, trace around it, then carefully cut out the shape.
- Make a three plait from the wool provided and attach their feathers or leaves to it, by making a hole in the end of each feather or leaf and threading the wool through all of them.

Colours for tamariki to consider

#### RED - Cultural well-being:

Having a strong connection to who they are, where they come from and culturally connected to others. Have the right to be connected to their culture, language and beliefs. Including identity, whakapapa and turangawaewae.

#### BLUE - Building Future Leaders:

Having people and spaces around them that help them to become better leaders. To install things that will help guide you and others forward. Tamariki to have access to good education to gain knowledge and be encouraged to achieve their full potential.

#### GREEN - Mental & Emotional Wellbeing:

Having support around processing mental challenges and emotional barriers in a positive way.

#### YELLOW - Whānau Support:

Supporting whānau to make sure our tamariki are well supported in their whānau. That they are well loved and feel safe.

#### BROWN - Health & Safety:

All tamariki should have access to good food and live in a good house. Have access to good education and healthcare.



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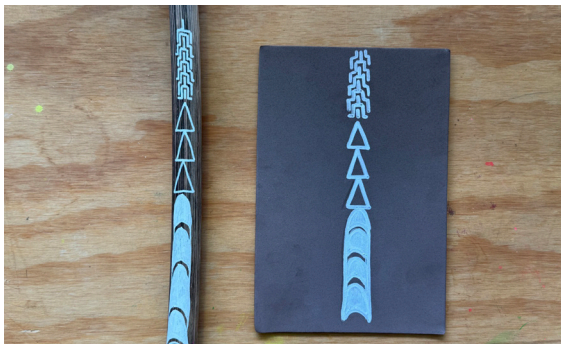
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### Task 02: Design your TOHU

- Tamariki are to research Māori patterns or tohu that best aligns with themselves.
- Practice drawing them on a piece of paper and “stack” them vertically. They can explore with using one or as many of these patterns or tohu and duplicate them in vertical lines.
- Remember these tohu will go onto their rākau, so the space on the rākau will be long and narrow. The tamariki will need to consider placement of their patterns or tohu along the rākau.
- Use the white paint pen provided to draw their patterns or tohu onto their rākau.

They will choose from the following:

**MANGOPARE** - Strength and Resilience

**KORU** - Growth, Whānau and Life/Ora

**POUTAMA** - Journey, “Leveling up”, Journey of Learning and Journey of Achievement

**NIHONIHO** - Maunga, Kāinga, Kaitiaki, Whakapapa, Your siblings, Parents and Grandparents

**UNAUNAHI** - Sharing of wealth, Sharing of abundance, Sharing to others who might not be as lucky as you, Generosity.

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### Task 03: Preparing the Rākau

- Tamariki will sand their rākau until it's nice and smooth.
- They sand the whole rākau (which is what we recommend) or just the part where the patterns or tohu will go.
- This will take some time but demonstrates the art of labour that goes into creating a one of a kind taonga.
- Having pride in your mahi and encouraging whakawhanaungatanga and kotahitanga during the preparation process.



### Task 04: Putting it together

- Take the tohu that the tamariki have designed.
- Have them draw their tohu on the prepared rākau with a supplied white paint pen.
- Attach the feathers/leaves to the top end of the rākau by fastening the plait to the top of the rākau.



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## Tangible Outcomes:

- Rākau made to represent taitamariki dreams.
- Rākau to be taken back to kura and play mauī/matau and then participate in the biggest game of mauī/matau ever seen.

## Materials:

- Rākau
- Black wool
- Coloured wool
- Sandpaper
- White paint pen
- Tohu sheet
- Feather & Leaf stencil
- Coloured foam card
- Pair of scissors

## Kaiako Notes:

- Demonstrate how to sand the rākau so that the surface is soft and prepared for drawing onto.
- Help tamariki to fasten or attach their whiri awe around the top of the rākau by tying, gluing or drilling a hole for them to tie into.